

Mark Laity

***NATO Civilian Spokesman, Kabul Afghanistan***

Mark Laity is currently the NATO civilian spokesman in Afghanistan. He is on detachment from his normal post as Chief of Strategic Communications at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), the military headquarters which runs all NATO military operations. This is his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

From May 2006 - Feb 2007 he served as civilian spokesman and media adviser to the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), for which he was awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal.

Previously he was a consultant on Strategic Communications to General James Jones (USMC) when he was SACEUR, and prior to that he spent nearly four years as Special Adviser to the Secretary General of NATO, Lord Robertson.

Apart from being a spokesman, during his time at NATO he was used in a variety of media and non-media 'troubleshooting' roles, most notably being sent in 2001 as a special adviser to President Trajkovski of Macedonia, when that country was on the verge of civil war.\*

Mark Laity came to NATO after more than 20 years as a journalist, including 11 years as the BBC Defence Correspondent, reporting from the frontline of many conflicts, especially the first Gulf War and the Balkan Wars of the 90s.

**\*His book on the subject, 'Preventing War in Macedonia - Pre-emptive diplomacy in the 21st Century' has just been published by the Royal United Services Institute.**